

As General David Petraeus wrapped up his second day of testimony on the war in Iraq, Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) boarded a plane and headed to Iraq.

He joins a Congressional delegation made up of several Ohio Congressmen. The trip is led by the House Minority Leader John Boehner (OH-8) and in addition to Wilson includes Rep. Pat Tiberi (OH-12), Rep. Peter Hoekstra (MI-2), Rep. Peter King (NY-3), Rep. Tom Latham (IA-4) and Rep. Devin Nunes (CA-21).

This is Wilson's first trip to Iraq.

"The American people deserve an honest assessment of conditions in Iraq and the Bush Administration's effort to manipulate the facts is unacceptable. As a member of Congress who will be asked to vote on this war very soon, I need to go and see for myself what the situation is," Wilson said.

"The troops have heroically done their jobs. They've done everything we asked them to do. The big question is how much more can we ask? And for what? The troops have done their damndest. I'm just not seeing much evidence that the Iraqis have done their part. I'm not questioning the troops, but I am questioning the political strategy. How are the next 6 months going to be any different than the past several years?" Wilson said.

Wilson will be hosting a conference call for reporters while he's in the Middle East to discuss why he's there, what questions he has and to share his observations of Iraq.

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